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Additional Sources Sought For M-16 Rifle Production

Department of the Army is selecting two additional sources to produce the M-16 rifle presently used by United States armed forces, mostly in Southeast Asia.

In a March 30 statement, the Department of Defense said, "The rifles will more quickly meet the increasing needs of Free World Military Assistance Forces in Southeast Asia and U.S. logistics and administrative troops."

Army has requested the present M-16 producers, Colt's Industries, to expand production from 30,000 to 50,000 rifles per month. Increased production is expected to begin in May.

Selection of the additional sources for M-16 production will be made primarily on the basis of production capability, together with a high level of confidence in the producer's ability to meet an accelerated schedule and maintain quality.

Hostile Fire Pay Approved For U.S. Forces Serving Near Korean Demilitarized Zone

SILVER STAR — Capt. Martin E. Strones, USAF, a member of the 3rd Security Police Squadron, Bien Hoa Air Base, receives the Silver Star from Gen. William W. Momyer, Seventh Air Force commander. Capt. Strones supervised defenses at Bien Hoa Jan. 31, when the base came under an intense rocket and ground attack.

Armed forces personnel assigned to duty near the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea will receive $65 a month hostile fire pay, under a Department of Defense memorandum issued April 1.

According to the memorandum, U.S. personnel serving on or after April 1 in that portion of the Republic of Korea "north of the Imjin River and south of the DMZ extending from the intersection of the river and the DMZ on the west . . . along the DMZ to a point in the vicinity of Pinil . . . then southwest to the north back of the Imjin River in the vicinity of Chaji'o" will be entitled to hostile fire pay "if otherwise qualified" under DOD Directive 1340.6.

Personnel who qualify under the directive are those who are:

(1) Entitled to basic pay; and

(2) Subject to hostile fire or the explosion of hostile mines, or

(3) Serving in an area where they are in imminent danger of being exposed to hostile fire or the explosion of hostile mines . . .

To be eligible for the special pay, service personnel entitled to basic pay must meet one or more of the following conditions:

- Be permanently assigned and required to perform duty in a hostile fire area, including those personnel on duty under orders for temporary duty in such an area for a period of 30 consecutive days or more;
- Or, be present in a hostile fire area to perform assigned duties for any portion of each of six calendar days, not necessarily consecutive, within a calendar month; or one or more days during the month included within a period of not less than six

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Generals Lemnitzer, Conway, Porter Testify on Military Assistance Program

Three Army generals, representing the Department of Defense, have testified on the continued need for a Military Assistance Program for countries in the U.S. European Command area; Middle East, South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara; and Central and South America.

Gen. L. L. Lemnitzer, Supreme Allied Commander Europe and CINC, U.S. European Command; Gen. Theodore J. Conway, CINCSTRIKE/USCINCMEAFSA, and Gen. Robert W. Porter Jr., CINC, U. S. Southern Command, appeared before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

New obligational authority for $420 million is being requested for the FY69 Military Assistance Program.

MAP's director, Gen. Lemnitzer, told the committee the Military Assistance Program is "dynamic." He noted that the planned program for FY69 would provide grant assistance to seven European, Near Eastern and North African countries.

Gen. Conway gave a breakdown on activities that have occurred in his area noting that $43.25 million "is the bare minimum required to support United States' objectives . . ."

As for his responsibilities, Gen.

Continued on Page 3

U.S., Canada Agree To 5-year Extension Of NORAD Pact

The Governments of the United States and Canada have agreed to renew the North American Air Defense agreement for an additional five years, beginning May 12, "in the continued cooperation between the two countries in the strategic defense of the North American continent."

The initial agreement was for ten years.

A note from the U.S. State Department to the Ambassador of Canada stated that discussions have confirmed "the need for the continued existence in peacetime of an organization, including the weapons, facilities and command structure, which could operate at the outset of hostilities in accordance with a single air defense plan approved in advance by the national authorities of both our countries."

The note also said it is agreed by the U.S. Government "that this agreement will not involve in any way a Canadian commitment to participate in an active ballistic missile defense."

The North American Air Defense Command was established on Aug. 1, 1957 "in recognition of the desirability of an integrated headquarters exercising operational control over assigned air defense forces."

President Signs Protective Legislation On VA Pension, Dependency Payments

President Johnson has recently signed a bill (H.R. 12555) protecting nearly a quarter of a million veterans, widows and parents against any reduction in Veterans Administration pension or dependency and indemnity compensation due to the recent Social Security increase.

The bill will also result in added VA payments, beginning Jan. 1, 1969, to more than 1.1 million on VA pension rolls.

At the signing, President Johnson said, "This bill is one of several measures to aid veterans that are pending in the Congress and I hope we may be able to get passed this year with the help of the Congress. Among these bills we have proposed to Congress is the Veterans in Public Service Act.

"That bill is designed to put the best of America to work on the worst of our problems here at home. We think the veterans are among our best and we know that we have a very great need for good personnel in the worst problems we have.

"So we would provide incentives to veterans to serve in the city slums as teachers, in the hospitals of the country to care for the sick, to aid us in our urban areas as policemen, or as firemen—these are very necessary public duties that we are having difficulty finding people trained, equipped and ready to perform."

The President noted that since Korea about five million veterans have gone back into private life. "But we have not emphasized to them or helped them prepare to fill our greatest needs."

President Johnson said only about 100,000 of the five million have gone into teaching.

He continued, "So we want very much to encourage more of these young heroes to come back and set an example in the classrooms, on the street, in the recreation areas in the slums, and in the hollows to inspire our youngsters and to provide leadership for them. This Veterans in Public Service Bill we think will do that."

At conclusion of the bill-signing ceremony President Johnson paid tribute to members in the House of Representatives and Senate who handle veterans legislation, and praised William Driver, VA administrator as doing "a great job for our country."

IG VISITS — Lt. Gen. Joseph H. Moore, inspector general of the Air Force (left), chats with Col. Ben Matlick, commander of Itazuke AB, Japan, during a tour of Far East bases. Behind them is famed Itazuke Tower, made prominent in a song written by a fighter pilot during the Korean conflict.

DOD Revises Regulation on Reserves Called to Temporary Missionary Work

Members of Ready Reserve units called by their church for legitimate temporary missionary work may now remain in the reserves instead of taking an automatic discharge and reporting to their draft board.

A recent revision of Department of Defense Directive 1205.14 provides for reenlistment of such personnel with a term of enlistment to include the remainder of their six-year obligation to the reserves and up to 30 months in a one-time missionary tour.

Prior to the directive's revision, those Ready Reserve personnel named by their church to an obligated missionary tour were discharged from the reserves and had to report to their draft board where they received an almost automatic deferment until the missionary tour was completed.

Following the completion of the missionary tour, the men could be immediately drafted into the armed forces since they were no longer a member of the Ready Reserves.

Military Assistance

Continued from Page 1

Porter said, "As an important instrument of United States national policy, the Military Assistance Program plays an important role in contributing to the success of the Alliance for Progress." He noted that military assistance contributes to gaining United States national objectives in internal security, civic action, joint and combined operations, and training.

Gen. Porter said the MAP for FY69 allocates funds to 16 countries and the regional requirements of Latin America. Of the total, about half is programmed for training to include training in the U.S. and in Canal Zone schools.

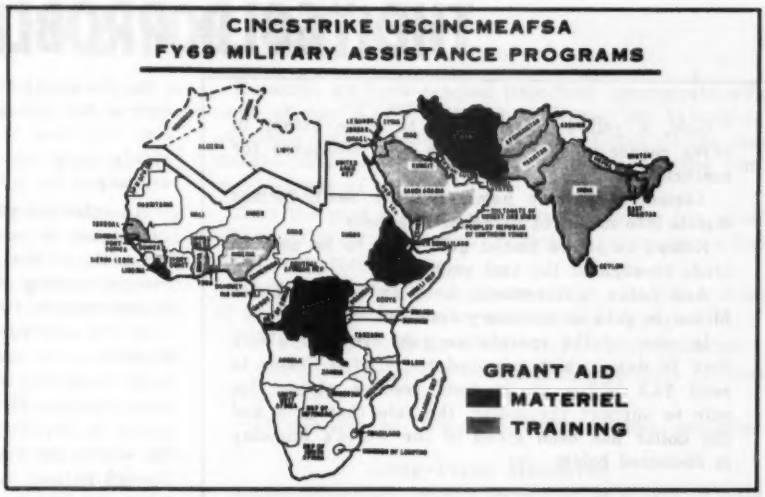
Materiel Requirements

He said the remaining funds are programmed in materiel requirements for 11 countries. Major emphasis is directed toward the strengthening of internal security by improving mobility and communications and by providing essential spare parts and equipment for maintaining previously furnished MAP equipment.

He believes the next ten years will continue to be difficult in Latin America. The Communists are fully committed to exploitation of the many existing social and economic problems. The security prospects in Latin America do not justify a lowering of our guard, the general said.

Regarding MEAFSA, the area under Gen. Conway, several countries are scheduled to receive grant assistance in FY 1969. (See map.) Iran, a "forward defense country" is scheduled to be largest recipient of grant aid for the MEAFSA area.

Explaining his area's situation, Gen. Conway said, "Since the June (1967) conflict, the Soviet Union has exploited every opportunity to increase its influence with the Arabs. It saw a unique opportunity to establish relationships with the Arab countries of the Middle East and to increase the degree to which the radical Arab states depend on the Soviet Union. With considerable rapidity, the Soviet Union replaced the majority of the aircraft, armor and other military equipment lost by Egypt and Syria. The Soviets have also substantially increased their naval strength in the Mediterranean.



"The Soviet Union has been a supplier of military equipment to India since 1963 . . .

"Chinese Communists rather than the Soviets have been supplying military equipment to Pakistan."

Gen. Conway continued, "Insofar as Communist influence in Africa South of the Sahara is concerned, the Soviet Bloc has been the most active. Red China has concentrated its limited activity in economic, financial and technical assistance . . . At a time when the United States foreign aid, including military assistance, is being reduced in Africa, the Soviet Bloc is demonstrating renewed flexibility and increasing its influence."

Gen. Lemnitzer, speaking about his part in the MAP said, "The planned program for FY 1969, in the area of the United States European Command, supports the concepts of individual and collective security which form the basis for internal stability in, and for unified action by the nations of the Free World. In NATO Europe, it is the military threat posed by the Soviet Union and other nations of the Warsaw Pact that influences, by level and type, the extent of our military effort."

He said this threat has increased since the last time he appeared before the committee. He added, "It is manifested by the existence of massive and versatile land, sea and air force, with both nuclear and conventional tactical and strategic capabilities.

"The Soviet Union, apart from maintaining and increasing its own military capabilities, continues to provide the forces of other Warsaw Pact nations with large quantities of modern military weapons and equipment, which have greatly improved their military capabilities.

Warsaw Pact Forces

"The Warsaw Pact land forces are quantitatively and qualitatively impressive. They are well trained, highly mobile, and they exercise frequently. They are supported by great numbers of armored vehicles and large amounts of supporting weapons . . . these forces continue to be supplied with modern equipment."

In concluding his testimony, after outlining the assistance to countries in his area, Gen. Lemnitzer told the committee, "The European area provides an excellent example of the effectiveness of the program in attaining the objectives of collective security among Free World nations. The program under consideration will continue to enhance the military posture of our allies and, in turn, promote our mutual security."

THE "GOLD PROBLEM"

Gold, a yellow metal found to some extent in every corner of the world, has been treasured for centuries.

Ancient Egyptians hammered the easily-formed metals into masks of deceased Pharaohs.

Roman emperors issued gold coins to be used in trade throughout the vast empire.

And today, governments hold an estimated $43 billion in gold as monetary reserves.

In view of the speculative gold crisis of 1968's first 70 days, which required the United States to send $1.5 billion of its gold reserve abroad for sale to support the dollar, the role that gold and the dollar has been given in the world's economy is discussed below.

Debts between nations are much the same as personal debts. Both must be paid.

They differ in that payments between nations must be made in a commonly accepted international "money."

Gold served that purpose for centuries, but transferring the bulky metal presented its own problems. As the British Empire flourished, the pound sterling—backed by the industrial might of Great Britain—served as another method of paying debts on an international level.

The U.S. entered international banking due to World War II. Since 1934, the U.S. had pegged the dollar to gold at the rate of $35 an ounce. In the eyes of many foreign governments, this made the dollar a prime investment to hold as World War II loomed on the European scene.

The United States' supply of gold rose from $19 billion in 1940 to more than $24 billion in 1949 as governments financed their war spending by sending gold to the U.S.

At the war's end, Europe—in fact, most of the Free World except the U.S.—was on the verge of bankruptcy, and both the victors and the vanquished turned to the United States for financial aid in rebuilding national lives and economies.

President Johnson recently referred to the role of the dollar in stimulating the resurgence of a war-ruined Europe as one of the "greatest economic miracles of modern times."

The vast U.S. foreign aid programs poured an estimated $40 billion into Europe in the decade after the war. Governments used the dollar as monetary reserve for national currencies and to settle international debts. Through these usages, the dollar and its future became increasingly both a national and an international responsibility.

The outflow of U.S. capital to recreate the Free World's economy, however, resulted in a continual deficit in this country's balance of payments.

In the late 1950s the deficit became a source of concern to the U.S. and to other nations of the Free World. Not only was the deficit rising, it was resulting in a steady drain on the U.S. gold supply as dollars were exchanged for bullion.

An international "gold pool" formed in October 1961 cooperated in meeting the demands to exchange dollars for gold. At the same time, the U.S. Government commenced working vigorously to reduce the continuing deficit to manageable proportions. From $3.9 billion in 1960, the U.S. had succeeded in lowering the deficit to $1.3 billion in 1965.

However, the deficit greatly enlarged again in 1967, to $3.6 billion. Furthermore, the devaluation of the British pound in the November sterling crisis—the second since the end of the war—also weakened the confidence of some foreign nations in paper currencies and was accompanied by a renewed demand to exchange dollars for gold.

This threat to gold, the dollar and international trade reached a crisis in mid-March, 1968. Central bankers of the seven active gold pool nations held an emergency meeting in Washington, D.C., to seek a solution. As a result of this meeting, a two-price system for gold was established, with both an official and a free-market price.

International Solution

The official price of gold in transactions between governments was maintained at $35 an ounce, thus assuring stability in international monetary accounts. Speculators, hoarders and industrial users, however, could bid for gold in the open market.

The participating foreign nations—Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom—also agreed to work closely with the United States in reducing its trade deficit and preventing the further outflow of gold from the Free World's monetary system.

Economists feel that it is increasingly evident that the world can no longer depend entirely on increases in the supply of gold and dollars to provide adequate monetary reserves. The amount of newly-mined gold available annually (about $1.4 billion) which in recent years has been sold in the free market does not provide an increase in world reserves.

And, the United States cannot provide a continuing growth of dollars to be held as reserves by foreign countries. This steady increase in U.S. liabilities would threaten the entire international monetary system with instability.

To aid in the solution of this problem, members of the International Monetary Fund (107 nations) have proposed the creation of reserves in the form of special drawing rights within the Fund.

Economists believe that if the system is adopted a continually growing international monetary reserve can be provided that doesn't depend entirely on gold as a backing for international currencies.

A TIME FOR ACTION*

The time has now come for decisive action designed to bring our balance of payments to—or close to—equilibrium in the year ahead.

The first line of defense of the dollar is the strength of the American economy.

No business before the returning Congress will be more urgent than this: to enact the anti-inflation tax which I have sought for almost a year. Coupled with our expenditure controls and appropriate monetary policy, this will help to stem the inflationary pressures which now threaten our economic prosperity and our trade surplus.

No challenge before business and labor is more urgent than this: to exercise the utmost responsibility in their wage-price decisions, which affect so directly our competitive position at home and in world markets.

A sure way to instill confidence in our dollar—both here and abroad—is through these actions.

But we must go beyond this and take additional action to deal with the balance-of-payments deficit.

Temporary Measures

Over the past 3 years, American business has cooperated with the Government in a voluntary program to moderate the flow of U.S. dollars into foreign investments. But the savings now required in foreign investment outlays are clearly beyond the reach of any voluntary program.

To reduce our balance-of-payments deficit by at least $1 billion in 1968 from the estimated 1967 level, I am invoking my authority under the banking laws to establish a mandatory program that will restrain direct investment abroad.

The program will be administered by the Department of Commerce.

To reduce the balance-of-payments deficit by at least another $500 million, I have requested and authorized the Federal Reserve Board to tighten its program restraining foreign lending by banks and other financial institutions.

Our travel deficit this year will exceed $2 billion. To reduce this deficit by $500 million:

—I am asking the American people to defer for the next 2 years all nonessential travel outside the Western Hemisphere.

—I am asking the Secretary of the Treasury to explore with the appropriate congressional committees legislation to help achieve this objective.

In his State of the Union Message, January 17, 1968 the President said: "We must try to reduce the travel deficit . . . without unduly penalizing the travel of students, teachers or business people—and essential and necessary travel for people who have relatives abroad that they need to see."

Reprints of the articles on these two pages are available. Write Armed Forces Press File, 1117 N. 19th St., Arlington, Va., 22209.

Recently, we have reached important agreements with some of our NATO partners to lessen the balance-of-payments cost of deploying American forces on the continent—troops necessarily stationed there for the common defense of all.

Over the past 3 years, a stringent program has saved billions of dollars in foreign exchange. I am convinced that much more can be done.

I believe we should set as our target avoiding a drain of another $500 million on our balance of payments.

Our allies can help in a number of ways, including:

—The purchase in the United States of more of their defense needs.

—Investments in long-term United States securities.

Long-Term Measures

American exports provide an important source of earnings for our businessmen and jobs for our workers.

Last year we sold abroad $30 billion worth of American goods. What we now need is a long-range systematic program to stimulate the flow of the products of our factories and farms into overseas markets.

I shall ask the Congress to support an intensified 5-year, $200 million Commerce Department program to promote the sale of American goods overseas.

I have today directed the Secretary of Commerce to begin a Joint Export Association Program. Through these associations, we will provide direct financial support to American corporations joining together to sell abroad.

And finally, the Export-Import Bank—through a more liberal rediscount system—will encourage banks across the Nation to help firms increase their exports.

In the Kennedy Round, we climaxed three decades of intensive effort to achieve the greatest reduction in tariff barriers in all the history of trade negotiations.

We must now look beyond the great success of the Kennedy Round to the problems of non-tariff barriers that pose a continued threat to the growth of world trade and to our competitive position.

In keeping with the principles of cooperation and consultation on common problems, I have initiated discussions at a high level with our friends abroad on these critical matters—particularly those nations with balance-of-payments surpluses.

We can encourage the flow of foreign funds to our shores in two other ways:

—First, by an intensified program to attract greater foreign investment in U.S. corporate securities, . . .

—Second, by a program to attract more visitors to this land.

**Excerpts from President Johnson's Message to the Nation on January 1, 1968*

TWENTY-FOUR STARS IN A ROW—Two-thirds of the U.S. Navy four-star admirals on active duty pose for a rare group view in the Pentagon office of Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chief of Naval Operations. Shown, left to right, are: Adms. Bernard A. Clarey, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Ephraim P. Holmes, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; John S. McCain Jr., Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces, Europe; Adm. Moorer; Ignatius J. Galantin, Chief of Naval Materiel, and John J. Hyland, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. The admirals were in Washington for a fleet commanders' meeting and also made appearances at the Secretary of the Navy's Symposium for retired Navy admirals and Marine Corps generals. Four star admirals not pictured are: U. S. Grant Sharp Jr., Commander in Chief, Pacific; Horacio Rivero Jr., Commander, Allied Forces, Southern Europe, and Alfred G. Ward, U.S. Representative to the NATO Military Committee.

SecNav Speaks at Recommissioning of New Jersey

A battleship with range greater than any other ship and gunfire more accurate—the New Jersey—was recommissioned April 6 and is scheduled to join cruisers and destroyers in Southeast Asia waters in September.

Speaking at the recommissioning in Philadelphia, Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius said, "New Jersey, like the other ships of the Navy, is a symbol of the determination of the United States to uphold the principles on which our democracy is founded and which guide our relationships with the other nations of the world."

He said the New Jersey's heavy gunfire support of operations on the land is the most effective and accurate in the U.S. Navy.

As an example, New Jersey's range will allow her to fire an explosive projectile weighing 2,700 pounds a distance of 20 miles.

Effectiveness of New Jersey's 16-inch gunfire on most targets at all ranges is more than two times greater than that of 8-inch gunfire—and the destructive fire is far greater.

The battleship can provide round-the-clock ground support for troops ashore under almost any weather conditions; can provide it further inland than smaller ships; and can pinpoint difficult targets more accurately.

Secretary Ignatius stated, "The response of New Jersey's officers and crew and of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard personnel to the challenge of bringing a 45,000-ton ship from the reserve fleet to battle-ready has been superb."

Noting this country is engaged in a limited war in Southeast Asia, Secretary Ignatius said, "We are there, not to conquer but to protect, not to impose our will but to provide security, so that a government that will be representative of the desire of the people to live in safety, according to their own aspirations, can become strong enough to maintain its continuity in a troubled area of the world.

"We have returned this great ship to the fleet to help in this effort."

As for the future of New Jersey, the secretary stated, "When the effort is completed, the ship will be retired to inactive status, as it was after World War II and again after the Korean conflict. Like our nation's objective in Vietnam, this ship's objective is limited—not to widen the war but to bring it to a successful conclusion, not to deepen our involvement but to make our withdrawal possible.

"Our aim is peace, our objective is the conference table, not the battlefield; and the events of the past week have further demonstrated that this ship, the Navy it joins, and the country it serves have no other purpose in Vietnam."

First Spartan Flight Termed Successful By Army Testers

Department of the Army officials have termed the initial flight of the long-range Spartan interceptor missile a success, following its first test shot from the Kwajalein Test Site in the Central Pacific March 30.

The Spartan is one of two missiles being developed as part of the Sentinel System, an anti-ballistic missile system which is primarily Communist Chinese-oriented. The Spartan is designed to intercept enemy intercontinental ballistic missiles above the earth's atmosphere.

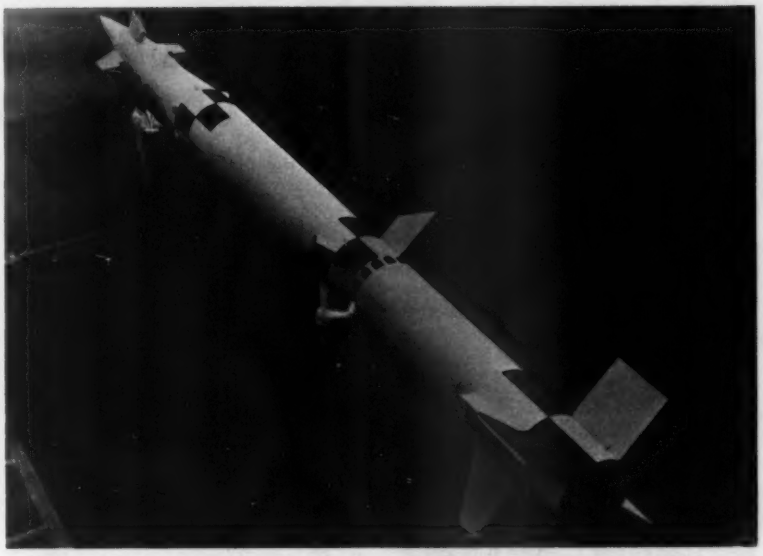
A second rocket, the short-range Sprint, is designed to intercept enemy missiles within the atmosphere but well above the point where radioactive fallout would become a danger to any populated areas below the point of intercept.

Test of Guidance System

The March 30 flight was designed to test the missile's response to guidance from the ground and controllability in flight. Using its first stage propulsion system only, the missile was guided by a nearby radar unit. The missile did not carry a warhead, although the external configuration and most of the internal components were of tactical design.

Army officials said Spartan flights will continue from Kwajalein Island while launching facilities for both Spartan and Sprint are being built on nearby Meck Island. Also being constructed on Meck is the first model of the Sentinel System's Missile Site Radar (MSR). The MSR will be used in the system for detection and tracking of targets, as well as guidance and tracking of the interceptor missiles in flight.

In future system research and development tests, Army officials said, the MSR and interceptor missiles will engage targets launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., 5,000 miles away.



SPARTAN MOCK-UP—Workmen place the finishing touches on a full-scale mockup of the Spartan missile which the Army has successfully test fired at the Kwajalein Test Site in the Marshall Islands.

AF Begins New Program to Modernize Reserve Support of Regular Units

A new Air Force program to couple reserve units, rather than individuals, with regular units flying modern aircraft, has begun at Norton AFB, Calif.

The 944th Military Airlift Group (Associate), teamed with the Military Airlift Command's 63d Military Airlift Wing, to become the first AF Reserve unit to enter the program. The reservists will be trained to fly and help maintain the all-jet C-141 Starlifter transport.

Two other reserve units—in Pennsylvania and New Jersey—will be associated with MAC wings this summer for similar training.

Noting it was vitally important to MAC that reserve support continue in the future, Gen. Howell M. Estes Jr., MAC Commander said it is also important that our reserve forces be capable of operating these modern types of aircraft rather than back up the regular Air Force in outmoded, older-style aircraft.

C-141s and C-5 Galaxies will compose the airlift force in the future, making prop-driven aircraft obsolete.

The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (I&L), Robert H. Charles recently said, "The Reserve Associate Unit, now being tested, is a natural corollary of the fact that modern aircraft are not only much more costly to acquire, but are even more productive."

Hostile Fire Pay

Continued from Page 1

consecutive days beginning in the preceding month;

- Have participated in a land, sea, or air tactical or strategic combat operation within a designated hostile fire area, and
- Have been subject to hostile fire while performing duty in a designated area and have been in such proximity to the trajectory or point of impact or explosion of hostile ordnance that he was in danger of being wounded, injured or killed.

Personnel either killed or wounded by hostile fire or other hostile action and entitled to basic pay are also eligible to receive hostile fire pay.

U.S., Allied Forces Receive Praise For Role in Vietnam

President Johnson and Gen. William C. Westmoreland have commended U.S. and allied forces for their role in Vietnam, especially since the beginning of the year.

"The relief of the forces which have held the base at Khe Sanh is an occasion for me to express the pride and confidence I feel in those who are carrying forward the Nation's struggle against aggression in Southeast Asia," the President said in a message, April 8 to the U.S. Armed Forces in Southeast Asia.

The Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Gen. Westmoreland, said while in Washington, D.C., April 7, "Our troops of all services have continued to perform in magnificent fashion and their conduct since the first of the year has been enhanced and my admiration for them has likewise been increased."

He noted that an assessment of the performance of the Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past several months reveals that, in general, they fought bravely and well.

In his message, President Johnson continued, "Side by side with your South Vietnamese comrades—and our other fighting allies—you have taken the full initial weight of the enemies winter-spring offensive; and you have now seized the initiative.

"The enemy intended to destroy the Constitutional government of South Vietnam and its armed forces. In this he failed."

As for the enemy and Khe Sanh, President Johnson said, "Less than 6,000 U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese Rangers—backed by our tremendous air capacity—pinned them down, kept them away from the populated areas at the peak of the winter-spring offensive, and imposed heavy casualties.

"As we seek now to find through negotiations an honorable peace in Vietnam, I wish you to know that we are grateful for what you have already accomplished and will be counting on you more than ever, until the blessed day when the guns fall silent."

U.S. Begins Redeployment Of Troops from West Germany

The redeployment of an estimated 33-34,000 U.S. service personnel from the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States began April 2 with the departure of the 24th Infantry Division's 3rd Engineer Battalion.

Announced last December by the U.S. Commander-in-Chief, Europe, the move is expected to take several months and involves two brigades of the 24th Division with their support units; the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment; three squadrons of the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing, and the 417th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

Although the units will be stationed in the U.S., they will remain committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and their equipment will be "maintained in the Federal Republic of Germany in sufficient quantity and readiness to insure that the forces and aircraft can be promptly redeployed to Germany."

Under a tripartite agreement between the United States, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, announced by the U.S. government in May of 1967, the three brigades of the 24th Division will succeed each other on temporary duty in Germany. This will leave one brigade on duty in Germany at all times. Further, the two remaining brigades and the four redeployed fighter squadrons will return yearly to Germany to participate in training exercises.

According to the government announcement, the redeployment is a constructive answer to problems posed in the defense of NATO and the balance of payments position of the "respective parties by the forces stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany."

Defense Department officials said the move will involve an estimated 31,000 Army troops and 3,400 Air Force personnel. The two 24th Division brigades and their support units will be stationed at Fort Riley, Kan.; the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment will be transferred to Fort Lewis, Wash.; the three 49th Tactical Fighter Wing squadrons will go to Holloman AFB, N.M., and the 417th Tactical Fighter Squadron will move to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

CARGO CAPABILITY — Six transcontinental buses parked under the wing of the U.S. Air Force C-5 Galaxy, world's largest airplane, are dwarfed by the 65-foot-high T-tail of the 728,000-pound Lockheed jet. All six buses would fit inside the transport's cargo compartment. With the huge rear doors open, the compartment is large enough for the buses to enter in two rows. In Air Force use, the loading ramp will handle wheeled or tracked vehicles, including Army's main battle tank.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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